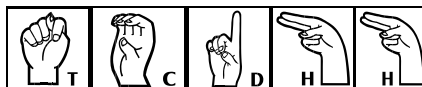


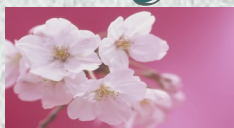
# TCDHH



March 2009

Volume 1, Issue 3

## Spring



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## From the Director's Desk

I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and that you are now refreshed to be active in this new year. There are many things that need to be done to improve the lives of those of us who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, and Deaf-Blind in Tennessee. We need appropriate mental health care, more skilled sign language interpreters, more trained support service providers, and proper equipment to assist us when we need to be alerted regarding dangerous times. With all of us working together, these goals can be accomplished.

If you have an article or a title for our newsletter that you would like to submit for consideration, please feel free to do so. We would like to hear from you. E-mail the Council at: [TCDHH.Council.DHS@state.tn.us](mailto:TCDHH.Council.DHS@state.tn.us) and we will see if we can post it.

May this year be the best yet!

Thom Roberts

Executive Director, TCDHH

Thom's new Greyhound: Connor



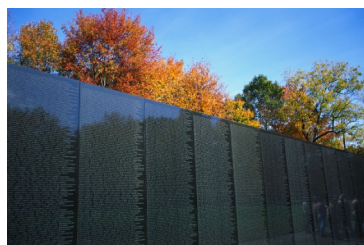
### COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Dana Hughes, Chair  
Paulette Melton, Vice Chair  
Kim Dance  
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Lisa Godfrey  
Deborah Harris  
Alan Mealka  
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Lygia Williams

## Honoring the Fallen



**In** 1996, a survey was given to a group of children in regards to the meaning of Memorial Day. Their answers ranged from barbecues to pool opening day. The children had no idea what the true meaning of Memorial Day was.



In 1997, it became an American tradition to have a Moment of Remembrance in which everyone is silent for one minute, at 3:00 p.m. (local time) while Taps is played, and reflect on the heroes who gave their lives for us.

Please join us at 3:00 p.m. on May 25 in a moment of silence.

## Introductions (& Congratulations)

We would like to welcome Nikki Ringenberg, Joseph Ochoa, and Trina Baylor who joined the League for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Ear Foundation in September 2008.



## JCIL Celebrates 13 years



Jackson Center for Independent Living celebrated its 13th anniversary on January 23, 2009. Glen Barr, Executive Director of the center since the beginning, welcomed staff and invited guests to join in the celebration. Cake was donated to the center by the local Sam's Club. Thom Roberts, Executive Director of the Tennessee Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, was in attendance for the event. Mr. Barr made a few comments on how the Jackson Center for Independent Living had its beginning and thanked all those who have supported this program through the years. Several people from the local Deaf Community were there to celebrate, and all enjoyed the afternoon together. We wish J-CIL the very best for at least another 13 years!



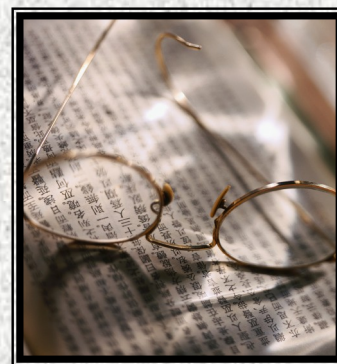
Photos: Top: Glen Barr, Executive Director, Bottom: Birthday Cake donated by Sam's Club.



## TCDHH Council Mini Minutes

November 14, 2008

- Six of our VR counselors graduated from the master's program in May 2008. According to current Federal regulations, a qualified counselor should hold a master's in rehabilitation counseling or a related field unless there is a state standard.
- The League for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is now the League for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Ear Foundation. The merger was official in September 2008.
- University of Tennessee board of trustees approved a plan to allow the U.T. Department of Audiology and Speech Program and Clinics to continue under the U.T. Health Services Center, College of Allied Health Services in Memphis. This department will remain in Knoxville, and the change will be effective July 1, 2009.





## TCDHH Executive Director's Report

November 14, 2008

## November

- 6th NexTalk Demo at LDHH
- 13th TSPN Regulatory Advisory Council Meeting
- 15th 2008 Statewide Workshop for professional serving D & HH Children
- 18th Special Needs Emergency Preparedness Kick off Campaign
- 19th Books from Birth
- 24th TSPN Update



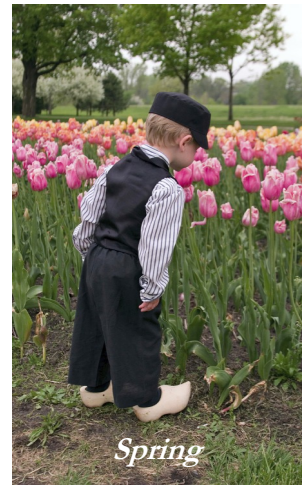
## December

- 4th Gate Communication Reception
- 11th TSPN Regulatory Meeting Awareness Event
- 18th Deaf Access to Voting
- 19th TRC Graduation



## January

- 8 Visited CCDHH in Johnson City (Mary Fultineer)
- 8&9 SERID Board Training at UT Knoxville
- 20 TSPN Intra-State Departmental Meeting
- 23 Jackson Center for Independent Living Birthday Party
- 27 Emergency Preparedness Meeting



## Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network

## What To Do When You Think Someone is Suicidal?

It can be very upsetting and distressful to hear someone talk about suicide. Knowing how to help and where to get help can ease these fears. Not everyone who has thoughts of suicide or talks about suicide actually attempts it, but most people who take their own life have expressed their intention. That is why it is important to take all talk or hints about suicide seriously. This is even truer if that person is depressed.

It is not always possible to prevent a suicide but your involvement and knowing what to do could save a life. The best way to find out if someone is thinking about suicide is to ask. Asking will not give them the idea; in fact it could show them that someone really cares. Giving people the opportunity to talk about their feelings decreases the risk. If you believe someone is at imminent risk of suicide, call 911 or take them to the nearest emergency room.



There are many types of help and ways you can support someone who may be at risk. One way is to give the person the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number: 1-800-799-4TTY (4889), 1-800-273-TALK (8255) voice. This number will connect them to the nearest crisis center where support and other help are available. This information could save a life.

For more information about suicide and resources in Tennessee, go to the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network's (TSPN) web page [www.tspn.org](http://www.tspn.org)

John F. Kennedy once said -

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."



## Emergency Preparedness Websites

Organization	Website
National Organization on Disability	<a href="http://www.nod.org">www.nod.org</a> or <a href="http://www.nod.org/emergency">www.nod.org/emergency</a>
Citizen corps	<a href="http://www.citizencorps.gov">www.citizencorps.gov</a>
US Department of Education	<a href="http://www.icdr.us/pubs/EP_Summary.pdf">www.icdr.us/pubs/EP_Summary.pdf</a>
FEMA	<a href="http://www.fema.gov/library/disprep/shotm">www.fema.gov/library/disprep/shotm</a>
Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities	<a href="http://www.disabilitypreparedness.gov">www.disabilitypreparedness.gov</a>
American Red Cross	<a href="http://www.prepare.org/disabilities/disabilitiesprep.htm">www.prepare.org/disabilities/disabilitiesprep.htm</a> or <a href="http://www.redcross.org">www.redcross.org</a>
READYAmerica	<a href="http://www.ready.gov/america/special_needs_items.html">www.ready.gov/america/special_needs_items.html</a>
Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness	<a href="http://www.dhs.gov/disabilitypreparedness/ICC">www.dhs.gov/disabilitypreparedness/ICC</a>
Disability Preparedness Center	<a href="http://www.disabilitypreparedness.com/">www.disabilitypreparedness.com/</a>
PrepareNow.org	<a href="http://www.preparenow.org/">www.preparenow.org/</a>
Nobody Left Behind	<a href="http://www.nobodyleftbehind2.org/">www.nobodyleftbehind2.org/</a>
Disabled People and DP2 Disaster Planning	<a href="http://www.citycent.com/dp2/">www.citycent.com/dp2/</a>
Preparing for Disaster	<a href="http://www.fema.gov">www.fema.gov</a>



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

Tennessee Council for the Deaf  
and Hard of Hearing  
Citizens Plaza Building, 14th Floor  
400 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, TN 37243  
Email: [tcdhh.council.dhs@state.tn.us](mailto:tcdhh.council.dhs@state.tn.us)

Phone: (615) 313-4918  
Fax: (615) 532-4685  
TTY: (615) 313-5695  
Email: [Thom.Roberts@state.tn.us](mailto:Thom.Roberts@state.tn.us)

<http://tennessee.gov/humanserv/rehab/cc6.htm>



## The State Rehabilitation Council Needs You!

**If you are a person with a disability or someone interested in having input regarding employment services to individuals with disabilities, the Tennessee State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) may be for you! The SRC advises the TN Department of Human Services on the administration of the Vocational Rehabilitation program. If you are interested in learning more about this unique opportunity to serve, please contact Kim Williams, SRC Chair, at 423-400-6994 or email [rkvend@aol.com](mailto:rkvend@aol.com). Additional information about the SRC is available at <http://state.tn.us/humanserv/rehab/cc1.htm>.**



## Upcoming Events

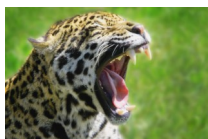


**Happy St. Patrick's Day**

## Spring

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**April 18th from 9:30—4:30 is Deaf Day at the Nashville Zoo. For more info: [www.gatecommunications.org](http://www.gatecommunications.org)**



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*May is Better Hearing and Speech Month*

**The first Friday in May each year, the Annual Better Hearing and Speech Month Picnic is held at a Park in Nashville. For more info: (615) 248-8828.**

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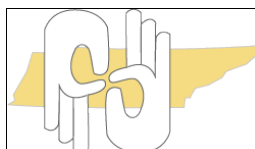


**May 2nd is Deaf Day at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga. For more info: [www.tnaqua.org](http://www.tnaqua.org)**

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**The TNRID Convention will be held May 8 & 9 in Chattanooga. For more info:**

**[www.tnrid.org/conference](http://www.tnrid.org/conference)**



**TENNESSEE DISABILITY  
MEGA CONFERENCE**

**The Tennessee Disability Mega Conference will be held May 28- May 30.**

**For more information:  
[www.tndisabilitymegaconference.org](http://www.tndisabilitymegaconference.org)**

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**HLAA Convention, June 18-21, Opryland Convention Center. Register Now. [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)**

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**The 2009 SERID Conference will be held in Biloxi, Mississippi, Sept. 27 - Oct.1. For more info: [www.serid.org](http://www.serid.org)**

